Development of integrated -pest management

*405. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to -state;

(a) whether Agricultural Scientists in the country have been engaged in the development of integrated pest management and of alternatives to the use of highly poisonous pesticides wherever possible and if so, what are the achievements so far in this regard;

(b) whether an African Scientist has recently been awarded Africa prize for the invention of a novel trap to capture the dreaded tse-tse fly, an insect which is the carrier of the causative agent responsible for Trypanosomiasis; and

(c) whether R & D efforts are under way in the field of agriculture to control pests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU}: (a) to (c) A Statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir. The Indian scientists have been working on the development of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) systems for controlling of crop pests and diseases in order to reduce undue reliance on pesticides.

The strategy includes use Of resistant varieties, manipulation of natural enemies of pests, combined with cultural, mechanical and chemical methods to combat pest and disease problems in- the most compatible and economical manner. A number of crop varieties resistant to important pests and diseases have been recommended in crops like rice, wheat cotton, sugareane and pulses. Reduction in use of chemical sprays has been obtained in a number of instances. Biological control is one of the most important aspects of an IPM system. A number of pests been controlled by the use of parasites, predators and pathogens including nuclear polyhedrosis viruses as in case of citrus mealybug, sugar-cant' pests, cotton ball vorms, tobacco caterpillars etc. Spectacular success has been achieved in biological control of the aquatic weeds like water hyacinth and water fern.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The IMP is now an integral part of all crop improvement projects. In addition, specific IPM Operational Research Projects on rice and -cotton pests are in operation. To give. a further impetus to this approach, a National Centre on IPM is being established in the 7th Plan in order to plan, coordinate and, execute IPM Programmes on a country-wise basis.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : सभापति महोदय, जो जबाब मंत्री महोदय द्वारा दिये गये हैं वह बिलकुल इस्केपिस्ट हैं, बिलकुल पलायनवादी जबाब है (व्यवधान) यह पेस्टीसाइडज के बारें में जो सवाल है. .

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Pesticides' is an English word. How is he using it?

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : जो कीटनाशक दवाओं का सवाल है, ऐसी कीटनाशक दवाएं हैं जिन पर पश्चिमी देशों में यहां तक कि मलेशिया, थाईलैंड और फिलीपिन्स आदि में प्रतिबन्ध लगा दिया गया है और हम ऐसी दवाओं का विदेशों से इम्पोर्ट कर रहे है वहां से मंगवा रहे हैं आयात कर रहे हैं मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि हम कितने करोड़ रुपये की कीटनाशक दवाओं का आयात कर रहे हैं ? मेरा प्रश्न का बी भाग यह है कि कीटनाशक दवाओं के बारें में एक कमेटी श्री एम. एन० बनर्जी और श्री दुधानी की अध्यक्षता में बाली की गई थी और उसने अपनी रिकमेंडेशंस और रिपोर्ट भ दे दी है।

मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि बेनर्जी कमेटी और दुधानी कमेटी की रिपोर्ट के बारे में सरकार क्या कर रही है ?

SHRI B. PRABHU: Sir, the main question is not about import of pesticides. The main question is about the management system. I think, the information given in the statement fully answers the question of the hon. Member.

As far as the quantum of imports is concerned, I do not have the figure right now. I can send it to the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN; Don't you have enough so that you have to import? That was his question.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : आपको जवाब नहीं है (व्यवधान) तो स्थगित कर दीजिये (व्यवधान) क्योंकि एस एन बनर्जी कमेटी की रिपोर्ट और दुधानी की रिपोर्ट में जो रिकमैंडशंस है उनको आप सदन के पटल पर रखिए ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Report of the working group On the FCI & HFC

401. SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE:
SHRI KAILASH PATI MISHRA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state-fa) what are the total losses so far of the Fertilizer Corporation of India and the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation; and

(b) whether Government have sines received the recommendations of the Working Group appointed in June, 1986 to examine the functioning and financial affairs of the Fertilizer Corporation of India and the Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation and also of a German firm, M/s. Krupp Koppers: if so, what are those recommendations and Government's response to each one of the same?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) and (b) As on 31st March, 1987 accumulated losses of Fertilizer Corporation of India (FCI) and Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation (HFC) were Rs. 836.32 crores and Rs. 518.69 crores respectively.

The recommendations of the task force which was set up to go into the working of FCI and HFC were received in December, 1986. The conclusions and recommendations of the Task Force are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix CXLD7, Annexure No. 124] While recommendation of the Task Force are under examination, action is already under way in regard to a few matters included therein such as processing of proposals for limited rehabilitation of the Ramagundam and Gorakhpur plants of FCI appointment of consultants for the end-to-end survey of the operating units of HFC. allocating power from the Super Thermal Power Station for the Ramagundam unit etc. Non plan financial support has also been provided to these companies to tide over their immediate liquidity problems.

The major recommendations of M/s Krupp Koppers, West Germany, who carried out the end-to-end survey of the two coal-based plants at Ramagundam & Talcher are:

1. Modification of the existing Air Separation plant;

2. Additional gasification stream;

3. Additional coal preparation stream;

4. Atmospheric Ammonia storage capacity for 5,000 MT; and